Lamia Notes- #2, 3/15/72 First to p. 85, this to 217

Well, de Vosjoly, who is not deVosjoly, having taken the "de" to give himself a bit of class, one of his more persistent criticisms of almost everyone he has eve known being of similar character, has finally gotten himself the the United States. He, naturally, was the only man the French secret service, as he calls SDECE, could send, because he knew nothing about the country and prior to his coming here there was nobody who could brief him in France (and it was sinister when the British offered to have their man here do it, naturally, because that turned out to be Philby, later), and prior to his coming he was so well informed in such matters he could not distinguish between the CIA and FBI and knew nothing of the structure of either. In fact, it was a mystery to him. Not that any French correspondent or embassy flunky couldn't have told him. But everyone else is suspect. He found Dulles the world's most erudite man, always right about everything. And when General de Lattra de Tassigny got here, that was a great blessing. One would never know de Lattre's history from the description, "a great militart chief and a very clever diplomat".

What really comes out is that the entire world conspires against poor deV. The government had shabby quarters for him, one room and no secretary, and he complains about it, not letting it be known, as I personally do from my own contact with those offices, that in the three buildings to which I went besides the embassy itself there was an acute housing shortage. I knew of cases where four people shared the same office in rented homes, and more than one such. It was common.

This is a man w o recounts non-stop failures as the golry of la belle France's counter-intelligence. If there is any single significant accomplishment to its credit, he hasn't reported it. That is, except that it alone made (the ungrateful) deGaulle. In its earliest form, BCRA. No matter who is in charge, no matter who is next in charge, no matter who works for it, where or when, it is shot through with graft and corruption, smuggling, failures, penetrations and incompetence. Their peopple are being caught and exposed all the time, ehich is what makes Communism so terrible. There are Communists in the government in France, and that, too, is a great disaster, made easier to record because the results of the elction are ignored (they were far and away the largest party). Having emerged victorious in the election, it is a psecial kind of subversion that makes them part of the government. This is an incredible man whose book is unique in recording disasters, incompetence, dishonesties and stupidities as memorable patriotism. In a sense ti reminds me of Lyman Kirkpatrick's "The Real CIA". The top shot lays it all on the line there. The CIA was created for the exclusive purpose of reorganizing itself, nothing else, and there ensued a series of directors, each more brilliant and dedicated that the preceeding one, each of whom presided over the more brilliant reorganization. It and they did nothing else, which is what makes it and them so important and so great a boon to the country and mankind.

There is no paranois when one has a deV. He has it a secret US play to install a Mrs. Meynier as the Empress of Amman under the FDR against whom the complain is that he was against colonialism. There is no doubt deV is a colon. Having established that under no form and at any time in its life his agency was worth of anyone trust, he is resentful that nobody trusted it. Going back to the beginning and China. General Cehaault to him is the only American general not involved in politics. He is resentful that OSS would have nothing to do with his people yet without realizing it admits that they had in all of their own Indochinese colony a total of but five cells, for whom he claims but 53 members, and they were in but 3 cities! And through all of his brilliant career, from his account, the guy secretly running everything, he remained a private. Naturally, all others who got promotions didn't deserve them and just used crookedness to get them. Involuntarily, however, he admits that US intelligence ope ations in SEAsia were successful where that of the French was not. His resentment is that US was anti-colonial (109, for example, if I read the note right). A careful reading show that when he got back to France from N. Africa his primary interest and the true patriotism was preserving colonialism there. (134?)

This is a French Otepka. He writes "history" easily ("It was through the effeciency of his secret service [i.e., deV] that de Gaulle had been able to sieze power"(129) And such representations:"The military revolt in North Africa plus the pro-French Algeria element in France made him [deGaulle] fear being overthrown bu so-called rightist organizations"(150) He has aln all-pervading anti-Communism and whatever they are for or do is wrong and it is a natural assumption that they are the enemy, wherever, whoever, elected or not, and he is Galahad. Interesting commentary on SDECE's capabilities re Farewell, etc, beg. 159. Of course, nobody else ever understands. Many passages marked.